

THRYOTHORUS NISORIUS, sp. nov. (Plate XLV.)

*Troglodytes nisorius*, Licht. in Mus. Berol.; ej. Nomencl. p. 34.

*Supra læte rufus, alis caudaque nigro regulariter transfasciatis: superciliis elongatis albis: lateribus capitis albis nigricante variegatis: subtus albus, nigro omnino transvittatus, fere sicut in Sylvia nisorio: tectricibus subalaribus albo nigroque variegatis: rostro et pedibus corneis: long. tota 5·5, alæ 2·7, caudæ 2·2, tarsi 0·85 poll. Angl.*

*Hab.* In Mexico, Real Arriba (Deppe).

*Mus.* Berolinensi.

*Obs.* Proximus *T. pleurosticto*, mihi, sed corpore subtus omnino transfasciato diversus.

This little Wren was one of the many novelties discovered by Herr Deppe and Schiede during their travels in Mexico. In 1830 a sale-list of the duplicate specimens of these travellers was printed at Berlin by W. Deppe, which contained very short descriptions of some of the new species by the late Prof. Lichtenstein\*. At the close of the list is announced the approaching publication of a 'Prodromus Faunæ Mexicanæ' by the latter zoologist, which promise, however, was never redeemed.

This tract is now very scarce, and I have never seen the original, although I have made repeated inquiries after it at Berlin and elsewhere. It has, however, been lately reprinted by Dr. Cabanis in his 'Journal für Ornithologie'†. Dr. Cabanis has likewise promised us a critique on the new species described in it according to the typical specimens of the Berlin Museum, which I hope will shortly appear, as it will be of great advantage to the students of Mexican Ornithology. The characters given by Prof. Lichtenstein are, in many cases, so short that without some such assistance it is impossible to to recognize the "new species" with certainty.

9. Remarks on two Species of Mammals described from specimens recently living in the Society's Gardens. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society.

(Plate XLVI.)

1. *MICO SERICEUS*, Gray, P. Z. S. 1868, p. 256.

On March 21, 1868, Mr. Bartlett purchased for the Society, from a dealer in Liverpool, a living male specimen of a small Marmoset Monkey which was quite new to me. It was stated to have been obtained out of a vessel coming from Pará, and to be the only

\* Preis-Verzeichniss der Säugethiere, Vögel, Amphibien, Fische und Krebse, welche von den Herren Deppe und Schiede in Mexico gesammelt worden, und bei dem unterzeichneten Bevollmächtigten in Berlin gegen baare Zahlung in Preuss. Courant zu erhalten sind. Berlin, 1830.

† Journ. f. Orn. 1863, p. 54.



CEPHALOPHUS TORSALIS



survivor of several others of the same species. Mr. Bates, being in the Gardens shortly afterwards, recognized this Monkey as one that he had met with on the Tocantins River, and had spoken of in his interesting travels as *Midas argentatus*\*. Following his identification, I referred the species to the *Simia argentata* of Linnæus, and in one of my notices of the additions to the Menagerie, published in the Society's 'Proceedings' for the past year (P. Z. S. 1868, p. 262), spoke of the animal as *Hapale argentata*. About the same time Dr. Gray, having made a cursory inspection of this Monkey at the British Museum, whither I had sent it, in order to be compared with the specimens in the National Collection, named it *Mico† sericeus*, and published under that name a very short description of it in the Society's 'Proceedings' (1868, p. 256), which is accompanied with an accurate figure by Mr. Wolf (plate xxiv.).

When inspecting the fine collection of American Quadrumana in the Berlin Museum last summer, under the guidance of my friend Dr. Peters, I first became aware that I had made a sad error in referring our *Hapale* to *H. argentata*. The Berlin Museum is fortunate in possessing authentic specimens of *H. argentata*, as well as of the *Hapale chrysoleucos* of Wagner. On examining these (which are both deficient in the British Museum, and had never come under my notice previously), I perceived at once that our animal was referable to the latter, and not to the former species. The *Hapale argentata*, although somewhat resembling *H. chrysoleucos* in colour, has the ear-conch naked, as in its close ally *H. melanura*, while in *H. chrysoleucos* this organ is densely fringed with hair. In order, however, to set the question definitely at rest, I applied to my friend Herr August von Pelzeln of Vienna, who most kindly supplied me in exchange, from the treasures of the Imperial Zoological Cabinet, with one of the duplicate specimens of

\* "The little *Midas argentatus* is one of the rarest of the American Monkeys. I have not heard of its being found anywhere except near Cameté. I once saw three individuals together running along a branch in a Cacao-grove near Cameté; they looked like white kittens: in their motions they resembled precisely the *Midas ursulus* already described. I saw afterwards a pet animal of this species, and heard that there were many so kept, and that they were esteemed as choice treasures. The one I saw was full-grown, but it measured only 7 inches in length of body. It was covered with long, white, silky hairs, the tail was blackish, and the face nearly naked and flesh-coloured. It was a most timid and sensitive little thing. The woman who owned it carried it constantly in her bosom, and no money would induce her to part with her pet. She called it Mico. It fed from her mouth, and allowed her to fondle it freely; but the nervous little creature would not permit strangers to touch it. If any one attempted to do so, it shrank back, the whole body trembling with fear, and its teeth chattered, whilst it uttered its tremulous frightened tones. The expression of its features was like that of its more robust brother, *Midas ursulus*; the eyes, which were black, were full of curiosity and mistrust, and it always kept them fixed on the person who attempted to advance towards it."—Bates's 'Naturalist on the River Amazons,' vol. i. p. 162.

† The value of this genus (!) may be estimated by the fact that it is characterized (P. Z. S. 1863, p. 734) as having the "ears naked, exposed," whereas the so-called *Mico sericeus* has the ear-conch thickly fringed with outstanding white hairs.

Natterer's *Hapale chrysoleucos*. This skin, which I now exhibit, agrees, it will be observed, in every respect very closely with the original of Dr. Gray's *Mico sericeus*, also now before us, which died in the Gardens on the 21st of July last; so that there can be no doubt of their identity.

The synonymy of this species will therefore stand as follows:—

#### HAPALE CHRYSOLEUCOS.

*Hapale chrysoleucos*, Wagner, Wiegmann. Arch. 1842, i. p. 357; Säugeth. Suppl. v. p. 125.

*Midas argentatus*, Bates, Nat. on the Amazons, i. p. 162(?).

*Mico sericeus*, Gray, P. Z. S. 1868, p. 256, t. xxiv.

*Hapale argentata*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1868, p. 262.

*Hab.* Vicinity of Borba, Rio Madeira (Natterer).

This species of *Hapale* is very well marked, from its peculiar pale uniform colour, in which it resembles *H. argentata* and *H. melanura*. From these, however, as already remarked, it may be distinguished by its hairy ears.

Herr v. Pelzeln has most kindly informed me that Natterer collected seven examples of this species of *Hapale* at Borba, on the Rio Madeira, and in its vicinity, 1829 and 1830. Four of these are still in the Vienna Museum, and one in that of Berlin.

Unless Mr. Bates is in error in his identification of the *Hapale* observed near Cametá with the animal lately living in our Gardens, the range of this species must extend from the Rio Madeira along the southern bank of the Amazons to the Rio Tocantins, which is by no means unlikely, other species being common to these two localities.

#### 2. CEPHALOPHUS BREVICEPS, Gray, P. Z. S. 1866, p. 202.

On the 13th of February, 1866, we purchased of a dealer at Liverpool a very young female Antelope, of the genus *Cephalophus*, stated to have been received in a vessel coming from Western Africa. Shortly afterwards, Dr. Gray, having had his attention called to this animal by the Superintendent whilst visiting the Gardens, described and figured it in our 'Proceedings' (1866, p. 202, plate xx.) as a new species, under the name *Cephalophus breviceps*. Upon the animal attaining maturity about a year afterwards the colour of the fur became darker and more intense, and it was evident that the supposed new species was nothing more than the young of the Bay Antelope (*Cephalophus dorsalis* sive *badius*), which had been previously living in the Society's Gardens, as well as in the former Surrey Zoological Gardens, and in the Menagerie of the late Earl of Derby, at Knowsley.

The history of this species, as far as I can make it out, appears to be as follows:—

In 1846 Dr. Gray first established *Cephalophus dorsalis* as a new species of the genus\*, basing his description on a specimen in the

\* Ann. Nat. Hist. xviii. p. 164.